

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
2/3 August 2007 Board Meeting

STAFF REPORT

**CITY OF FOLSOM
SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM
SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

Consideration of Resolution rescinding NPDES permit and Cease and Desist Order (CDO) for the City of Folsom Sanitary Sewer Collection System

BACKGROUND

The City of Folsom, located approximately 12 miles east of downtown Sacramento, owns and operates a sanitary sewer collection system (SSCS) that provides wastewater services to domestic, commercial, and industrial facilities in the Folsom area. The wastewater is conveyed to Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant through regional interceptors operated and maintained by Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. The City operates and maintains the sewers within its territorial jurisdiction pursuant to an Interagency Agreement between the City and the District.

Between 1995 and 2000, the City of Folsom experienced several major sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) ranging from 84,000 to 700,000 gallons that spilled into the American River and the Folsom South Canal. Both waterbodies are sources of drinking water. Infiltration and inflow (I/I) in portions of the City's SSCS, a lack of capacity during wet weather, and failure to conduct adequate preventive maintenance were the primary factors contributing to the SSO events.

The Regional Water Board responded by issuing: (1) a joint Cleanup and Abatement Order directing the District and the City to assess sewer system capacities and implement corrective actions necessary to prevent future SSOs, and (2) an Administrative Civil Liability Order for \$700,000 to the City. In March 2002, the Regional Water Board adopted an individual NPDES permit for the City's SSCS that applied draft federal rules for collection systems. Key permit elements include: prohibition of SSOs, adequate capacity to convey wet weather flows requirement, implementation of a sewer system management plan (SSMP) that includes correction of capacity problems, an overflow emergency response plan, and prescribed reporting requirements for SSO events. Since the City could not immediately comply with the prohibition on SSOs, a CDO with a compliance time schedule was also adopted.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

The City has complied with its permit requirements. Implementation of its SSMP to resolve maintenance and capacity problems has resulted in major improvements to the SSCS. SSO events have been reduced significantly in number and volume, and no catastrophic spills have occurred.

The City has specifically addressed capacity issues through completion of a system-wide hydraulic capacity study, completion of a Capacity Assurance Plan, and the expansion of capacity through additional lift station projects and system reconfiguration in problem areas. The City conducted flow monitoring, sewer system testing, sewer system inspection, numerous construction projects, and up to date SSCS mapping in Geographic Information System (GIS).

The City has also improved staff training, developed an SSO Emergency Response Plan, a Sewer Condition Retrofit Plan, and a Grease Control/Disposal Program. By December 2006, the entire system was cleaned and flushed, examined using smoke testing and close circuit television, and all manholes and pump stations were inspected.

PROPOSED ACTION

Since the issuance of the individual NPDES permit for the City of Folsom, the State Water Resources Control Board issued general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems, and required all public agencies to apply for coverage. The State Water Board intended that, unless there is a specific reason to maintain dual coverage under the Orders, that in most cases the Regional Water Board should rescind any permits issued solely for collection systems. The City of Folsom applied for coverage under the general WDRs and requested the Regional Water Board rescind its individual NPDES permit and CDO. Staff reviewed the request and determined it was reasonable.

On 11 April 2007 a tentative Resolution to rescind the Orders was issued for public comment. However, due to inadequate posting of the Notice of Public Hearing, the matter was removed from the May Board meeting agenda. Comments were received from two parties: Save the American River Association (SARA) and Laurette Laurent, a citizen of Folsom. Both parties requested Designated Party status. SARA is primarily concerned with the seriousness of past SSOs from the City's collection system and if the problems in the system have been adequately addressed. Laurette Laurent expressed concerns over alleged continuing violations by the City. Both parties also reminded the Regional Water Board of the Grand Jury investigation of the City after the

adoption of its permit and CDO, which supported the Regional Water Board actions.

On 14 June 2007, the Resolution was again issued for public comment, and this time was properly posted and published. No additional comments were received by the agenda deadline, however comments are not due until 19 July 2007.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The City has obtained coverage under the general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to regulate SSCSs and has requested that the Regional Water Board rescind its NPDES permit and CDO. After review of the City's compliance history, staff recommends rescission of the NPDES permit and CDO.